

ASSEMBLY, No. 3156

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 7, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN F. MCKEON

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

SYNOPSIS

Directs BPU to study feasibility of adopting certain requirements for installation of new and replacement electric distribution utility poles and transmission towers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT directing the Board of Public Utilities to conduct a study
2 concerning certain electric public utility infrastructure.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. a. The Board of Public Utilities shall study and prepare and
8 submit, within six months of the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.)
9 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), to the Governor and,
10 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
11 Legislature a written report which shall make findings and
12 recommendations concerning the feasibility of establishing
13 requirements concerning the installation of new or replacement
14 electric distribution utility poles and transmission towers to include:

15 (1) the feasibility of requiring the installation of concrete, steel,
16 or fiberglass-reinforced composite electric distribution poles;

17 (2) the feasibility of requiring the installation of higher classes
18 of wood electric distribution utility poles than are currently in use;

19 (3) the feasibility of installing higher class or grades of
20 transmission towers than are currently in use;

21 (4) the feasibility of establishing increased height requirements
22 for electric distribution utility poles which support transformers and
23 related distribution infrastructure; and

24 (5) the implementation of standards related to foundation
25 design, embedment depth, and advanced engineering methods for
26 utility pole installation.

27 The purpose of the study is to determine what type of electric
28 distribution utility poles and transmission towers should be
29 installed, and under what method the installation should occur, to
30 adequately support overhead distribution and transmission
31 infrastructure during a severe weather event including, but not
32 limited to, a hurricane, cyclone, flood, tornado, snow storm, or ice
33 storm.

34 b. In conducting the study, the board shall:

35 (1) consult with relevant persons and public and private entities
36 in other states that have utilized the types of utility poles,
37 transmission towers, or standards described in subsection a. of this
38 section;

39 (2) consider the requirements of the National Electrical Code,
40 the National Electrical Safety Code, the American National
41 Standards Institute, and other applicable national and international
42 standards; and

43 (3) consider the cost to ratepayers, municipalities, electric
44 public utilities, and the State associated with the implementation of
45 the requirements described in subsection a. of this section.

46 c. For the purposes of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
47 the Legislature as this bill), "electric public utility" means a public

1 utility, as that term is defined in R.S.48:2-13, that transmits and
2 distributes electricity to end users within this State.

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4 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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9 This bill directs the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to study and
10 prepare and submit, within six months of the effective date of the
11 bill, to the Governor and to the Legislature, a written report making
12 findings and recommendations concerning the feasibility of
13 establishing requirements concerning the installation of new or
14 replacement electric distribution utility poles. The BPU would
15 consider: 1) the feasibility of requiring the installation of concrete,
16 steel, or fiberglass-reinforced composite electric distribution poles;
17 2) the feasibility of requiring the installation of higher classes of
18 wood electric distribution utility poles than are currently in use; 3)
19 the feasibility of installing higher class or grades of transmission
20 towers than are currently in use; 4) the feasibility of establishing
21 increased height requirements for electric distribution utility poles
22 which support transformers and related distribution infrastructure;
23 and 5) the implementation of standards related to foundation design,
24 embedment depth, and advanced engineering methods for utility
25 pole installation.

26 In conducting the study, the board is directed to: 1) consult with
27 relevant persons and public and private entities in other states that
28 have utilized the types of utility poles, transmission towers, or other
29 standards described in the bill; 2) consider the requirements of the
30 National Electrical Code, the National Electrical Safety Code, the
31 American National Standards Institute, and other applicable
32 national and international standards; and 3) consider the cost to
33 ratepayers, municipalities, electric public utilities, and the State
34 associated with the implementation of the requirements described in
35 the bill.